

Parent and professional perspectives of Ohio's early intervention system for families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing: A community collaborative approach

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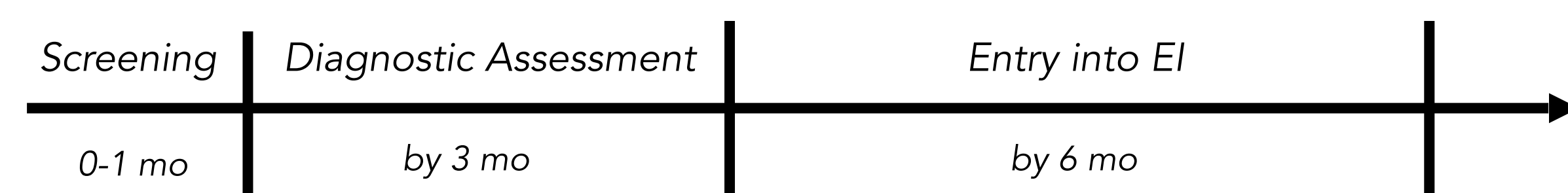
Early Intervention is Key

Approximately 3 per 1,000 children are born with hearing loss each year, and most children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH) are born to hearing parents.

With timely access to high-quality early intervention (EI) services, children who are D/HH can develop language on par with their normal-hearing peers, although challenges still persist for many.

Yoshinaga-Itano et al. (2017)

The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (2007) specifies the following timeline:



Universal newborn hearing screening makes this timeline feasible, but **barriers and challenges** still exist.

Shulman et al. (2010)

Parents and professionals have first-hand insights that can inform our understanding of these challenges, guiding recommendations to strengthen available EI services.

NCHAM and the Early Intervention for Children who are D/HH: Systematic Nationwide Analysis of Program Strengths, Hurdles, Opportunities, and Trends

Community Collaborative Approach

Collaborative models of parent-professional partnerships have been successfully implemented to understand and sustain systematic efforts to bolster a wide variety of services for families.

Schindler et al. (2017)

This approach has led to sustainable solutions to previously-identified barriers that preclude timely entry into EI services for children who are D/HH.

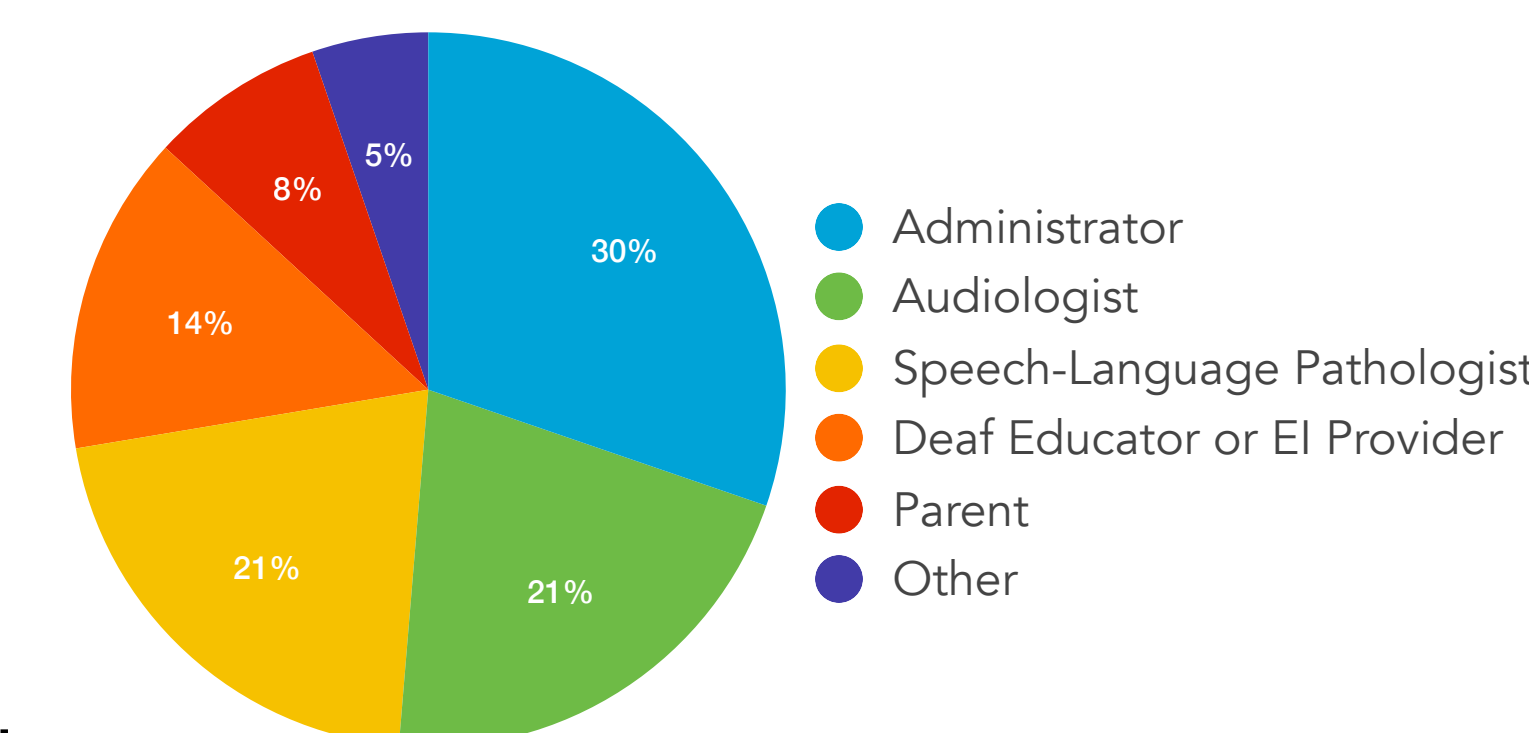
Russ et al. (2010)

The Children's Hearing and Language Development Resource Network [CHLDRN] of OH

Shared mission among stakeholders is to strengthen EI services in OH for families with children who are D/HH.

Diverse stakeholders include:

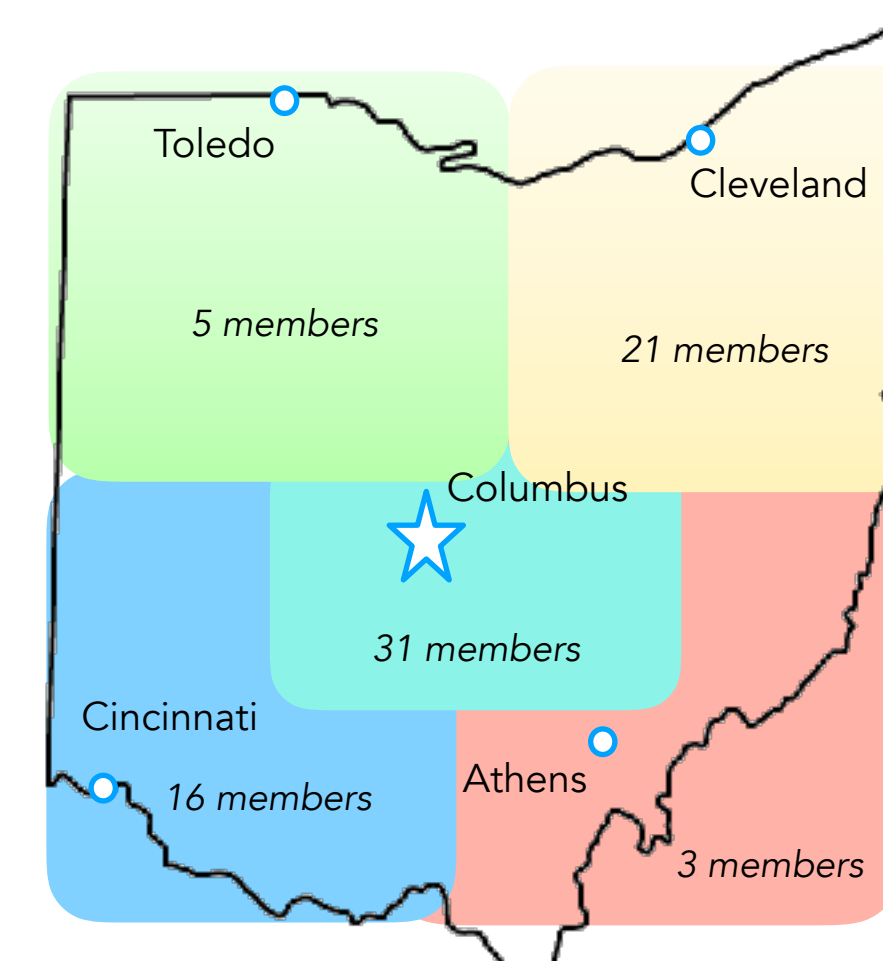
- Audiologists
- Speech-language pathologists
- Early intervention (EI) providers
- Administrators
- Parents of children who are D/HH
- Adults who are D/HH



Note: 70% of administrators also have a clinical degree.

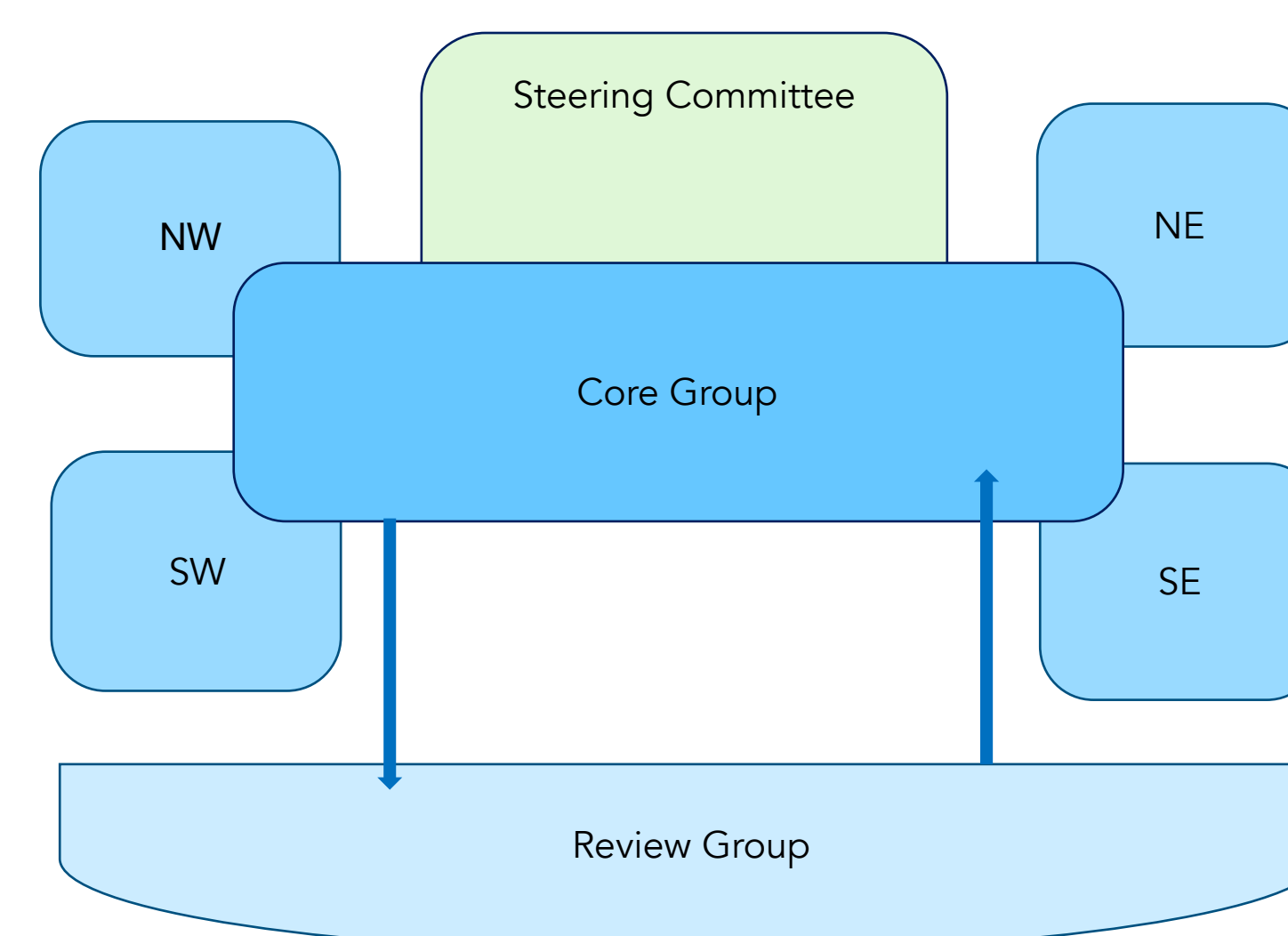
The other category includes researchers and physicians.

Stakeholders come from across the state:



Organizational structure allows for various levels of engagement:

- *Steering committee* offers vision and direction
- *Core group* develops ideas into actionable tasks
- *Regional groups* provide local support and insights into their region
- *Review group* provides feedback throughout the process
- *Outside facilitator* guides discussions



Discovery Period

Objective: To discover both the strengths and the gaps in the EI system for families with children who are D/HH

Methodology: Mixed methods approach

Qualitative data via in-depth, open-ended **focus groups** led by expert facilitator

Quantitative data via **surveys** adapted with permission from the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management's EI SNAPSHOT project

Surveys specifically designed for:

- Parents
- Audiologists
- EI providers

Data Analysis

Using an approach similar to that used by Brene Brown called grounded theory, transcripts and notes from the focus groups will be analyzed for themes.

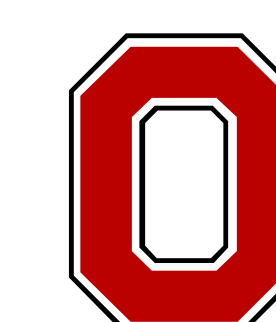
Quantitative results from the surveys will complement the qualitative themes.

Next Steps

Recommendations will be shared in a final report.

Acknowledgements

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